

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks

Please consider the application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-56 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 24 and 48 are independent and all remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 24 and 48. Claim 47 has been amended and claims 57-85 are cancelled.

II. Restriction Requirement

In the present office action the Examiner has issued a restriction requirement, between the claims of Group I, comprising claims 1-56 and Group II comprising claims 57-85. Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I, namely claims 1-56, without traverse. Claims 57-85 have now been cancelled. Applicants retain the right to present claims 57-85 as filed in one or more divisional applications.

III. Species Election Requirement

In the present office action the Examiner has required an election of species in the claims of Group I invention between Group A (exemplified by claims 1-23), directed to a method including a screen, and Group B, directed to a method including a perforated shroud. The Examiner indicated that claims 1-23 were generic on page 3 of the action.

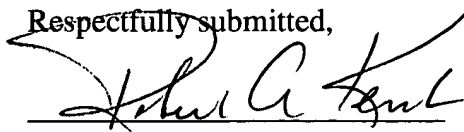
Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner is incorrect about the generic claim group. The generic claim group is actually claims 24-47. Claim 47, which originally read upon the claims of Group A, has now been amended to read upon both groups 1-23 and 48-56. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 47 does not comprise new matter and is based upon the language of claims 48-56 and the specification support thereof. Applicant hereby elects the species shown in Group A, claims 1-23, if no claim in the generic claims 24-47 is found allowable.

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request examination of the designated claims. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that there are no additional fees due in association with this filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any additional fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the

Commissioner accept this as a petition therefore, and direct that any additional fees be charged to Deposit Account of Halliburton Energy Services, Inc., No. 08-0300 (Reference Number HES 2003-IP-010077U1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Kent", written over a horizontal line.

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